



Department of Justice

United States Attorney S. Amanda Marshall
District of Oregon

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CONTACT: SUE RUTLEDGE
PHONE: 503-727-1121

DAUGHTER SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR THEFT OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS

EUGENE, Ore. – A Cottage Grove woman was ordered to serve 18 months in prison for the 26-year theft of her missing father's retirement benefits. Martha B. McRae, 63, appeared before U.S. District Court Judge Michael R. Hogan today and was also ordered to pay approximately \$850,000 in restitution to the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), and the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS).

The theft was discovered after SSA attempted to contact all SSA beneficiaries over the age of 100 as part of its effort to combat fraud, waste, and abuse. McRae's father would have been 103 years old. SSA determined that McRae's father had been missing since 1984 and McRae had been withdrawing his benefits from a joint account. The investigation also determined that McRae forged her father's signature twice in documents submitted to OPM and DFAS in an effort to prevent the agencies from discovering the theft.

The case was investigated by agents from the Social Security Administration Office of Investigations, Office of Personnel Management Office of Investigations, and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Criminal Investigations. The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Helen L. Cooper, as part of a partnership venture between the Seattle Region, Social Security Administration, Office of the General Counsel, and the United States Attorney's Office in Portland, Oregon.

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